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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Irkutskaya Oblast)

REPORT

SUBJECT Possible Nuclear Power Plant Near Angarsk

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1. The construction of a large industrial installation near the city of Angarsk (N 52-35, E 103-54) was started in 1950 and completed in 1954. The labor force necessary for the construction of the installation, which extends over an area eight by twelve kilometers, was made up of an estimated 800,000 prisoners and most of the population of Angarsk. The prisoners lived in forty-two prison camps, one of which, No. 13, accommodated some 19,000 prisoners. The workers from each camp entered the construction site through separate gates.
2. The buildings erected at the site had four stories above the ground and five below ground. Some of the buildings had walls 1.5 meters thick with no windows. Other buildings were topped with a system of insulated cooling pipes with diameters ranging from five to 150 centimeters.
3. A network of railroad lines, including one main line, traversed the plant area connecting the buildings. An electric train entered underground buildings in the western part of the site. Coal was supplied by the mines at Cheremkhovo (N 53-09, E 103-05). Despite the proximity of one of the largest power plants in the USSR, a sizeable power station was built in the southeastern part of the site. As a result of an explosion in the power station in 1954 one building was completely gutted and a number of people were killed; 117 bodies were recovered from the debris. Several people were arrested for suspected sabotage after a committee had been appointed to investigate the explosion.
4. The plant was reportedly patterned after an installation in Kuybyshev,¹ but is larger and of more advanced design. Scientists and engineers in the labor force were convinced that the project was connected with the exploitation of nuclear energy.

1. Comment: It is believed that the Kyubyshev referred to is at N 53-12, E 50-09.

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